

Arnold Schwarzenegger
California

Janet Napolitano
Arizona

Rick Perry
Texas

Bill Richardson
New Mexico

Richard Codey
New Jersey

Kenny Guinn
Nevada

George E. Pataki
New York

Ruth Ann Miner
Delaware

Thomas Vilsack
Iowa

Rod Blagojevich
Illinois

Sunny Perdue
Georgia

Jeb Bush
Florida

Charles Turnbull
Virgin Islands

Christine Gregorie
Washington

Tim Pawlenty
Minnesota

May 6, 2005

The Honorable Richard C. Shelby
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice
and Science
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Barbara A. Mikulski
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice
and Science
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Shelby and Ranking Member Mikulski:

We write to express our continued support for the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP) and to request you appropriate \$750 million for this program in Fiscal Year 2006. SCAAP is vital to states such as ours who bear a significant financial burden for the federal government's failure to control our nation's borders.

We appreciate the Senate's reiterating its support for \$750 million for SCAAP during its debate on the budget resolution. The Sense of the Senate Resolution is an important statement on the broad support that SCAAP enjoys in the Senate. Congress has provided help in maintaining this program – but more is needed. As Governors, we are well aware of the difficult choices that must be made in prioritizing funding. It is for this reason that we join together to write you now. We want to reiterate our strong support for SCAAP and to assure you of the critical importance of this program. Each year, thousands of undocumented aliens who have committed crimes in our states are incarcerated in state or local facilities. SCAAP provides only a partial, but important, reimbursement for the cost to incarcerate these individuals.

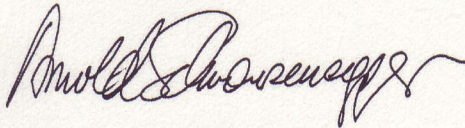
Our states are committed to working with the Federal government to protect our nation. While we are doing what we can in this important effort, immigration policy and controlling the nation's borders are clear, fundamental responsibilities of the Federal government and an essential component of homeland security. Every effort should be

The Honorable Richard C. Shelby
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made to help States and local governments cover a greater share of the expenses they incur to incarcerate criminal aliens.

Thank you for your consideration of our request. Again, we appreciate your past support and we look forward to continuing our work with you to ensure that SCAAP remains a viable program for reimbursing State and local governments for the burden they carry to incarcerate criminal aliens.

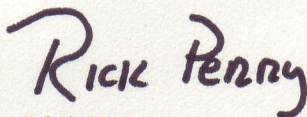
Sincerely,



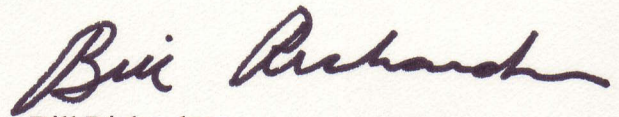
Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor of California



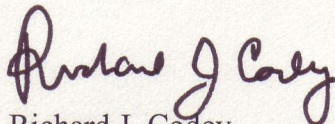
Janet Napolitano
Governor of Arizona



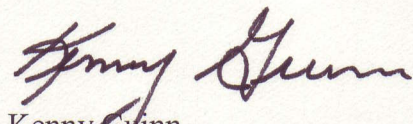
Rick Perry
Governor of Texas



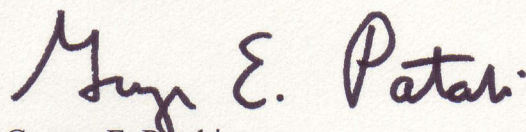
Bill Richardson
Governor of New Mexico



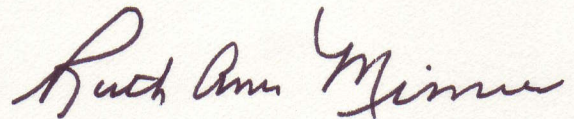
Richard J. Codey
Governor of New Jersey



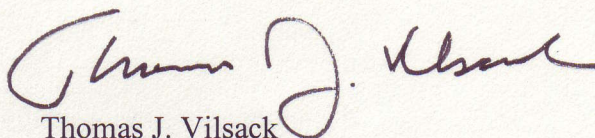
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Governor of Nevada



George E. Pataki
Governor of New York



Ruth Ann Minner
Governor of Delaware

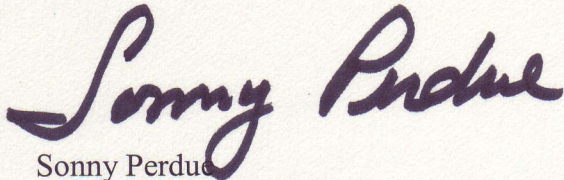


Thomas J. Vilsack
Governor of Iowa

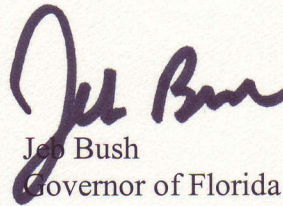


Rod R. Blagojevich
Governor of Illinois

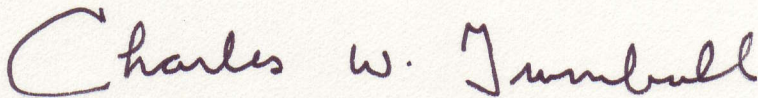
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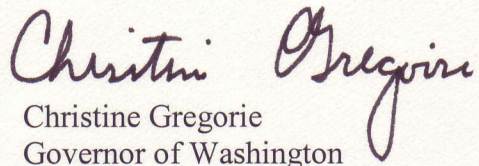
Sonny Perdue
Governor of Georgia



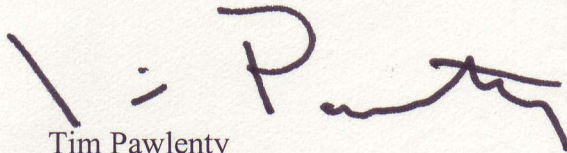
Jeb Bush
Governor of Florida



Charles Turnbull
Governor of Virgin Islands



Christine Gregorie
Governor of Washington



Tim Pawlenty
Governor of Minnesota

cc: The Honorable Thad Cochran, Chairman
The Honorable Robert C. Byrd, Ranking Member